

Parental involvement

Parental involvement is vital for the success of Playgroup since it requires more than just the payment of fees to keep it running. The following are just some of the ways in which you can become involved:



- * The voluntary 'Parent Helper' rota, where you stay and help during a particular session. (See our notice board to sign up).
- * Joining the committee. We have vacancies, speak to Lynn The Chairperson on 702986.
- * Helping with outings, parties, and various housekeeping events.
- * Fundraising events, either by helping prepare for the event, or supporting on the day.
- * Spending time with the children discussing or demonstrating some aspect of your talent or profession e.g. baking, craft, fireman, farmer etc.
- * Attending relevant meetings and responding to circulars.
- * A variety of social events are arranged during the year. This provides an opportunity for parents to meet up and have some fun!

You are also welcome to attend training courses, workshops and conferences organised by the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

Admissions

Bishopthorpe Pre-school Playgroup operates an equal opportunities policy, welcoming **all** children and their carers. Our highly trained staff includes a Special Needs Co-ordinator who works closely with children with special needs and their parents/carers to enhance the child's experiences while in Playgroup. If you are interested in enrolling your child with us, please contact our Admissions Officer on 01904 709586 for an application form. We advise that you register your child with us as soon as possible, as places are limited. Once places are confirmed one months notice will be required to cancel.



Our website is at <http://www.bishopthorpe-playgroup.org.uk>

We hope to develop this as a dynamic and interactive form of communication for both parents and children, so please check out the site and get involved! It has a number of useful links and will be helpful to those parents

who do not regularly come to the playgroup building themselves, and who therefore do not see some of the notices which are displayed.

Bishopthorpe Pre-school Playgroup



Sports Pavilion, Ferry Lane, Bishopthorpe, York, YO23 2SB

We are located 3 miles south of York in the village of Bishopthorpe, official residence of the Archbishop, and close to York Racecourse.

Our team of staff is caring, dedicated and approachable. Many of them are highly trained in a variety of areas and some have been with us for over 16 years! All are well known among the parents as many of the staff have children at the local schools, or are involved in local organisations such as Rainbow and Brownie groups or the schools in the village. They work closely as a team to ensure that all children and their families are happy and comfortable within our setting.

The Play Setting Leader is Julie Morris and the Committee is Chaired by Lynn Pym.

If you require further information or would like to arrange a visit to our Playgroup, please ring 07722-046184 or 709586

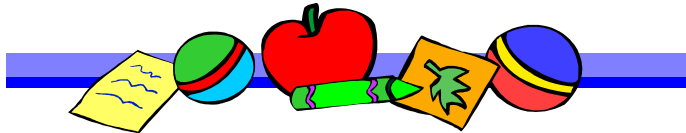
Bishopthorpe Pre-school Playgroup is registered with Ofsted and is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance
Charity Registration Number 1020793

Website: www.bishopthorpe-playgroup.org.uk

The Organisation

Bishopthorpe Pre-school Playgroup is a registered charity. As a parent/carer of a child attending Playgroup you automatically become a member of the Bishopthorpe Pre-school Playgroup Association and may vote at the Annual General Meeting in the summer term. This means that major decision making is in the hands of the parents/carers who use the group.

The Committee is formed by a minimum of seven parents/carers who are elected annually at the AGM. The Committee meets monthly during term time and is responsible for ensuring that Playgroup has funds and is properly managed. The Chairperson and Play Setting Leader are responsible for interviewing and employing Playgroup staff.



We aim to:

- enhance the development and education of pre-school children in a parent-involved community-based group.
- provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment.
- initiate independent learning and aid the development of life skills.
- work within a framework which ensures equality of opportunity for all children and families.
- foster tolerance and respect for others in our multi-cultural society.

We can offer your child:

- access to the National Foundation Stage curriculum.
- personal care and attention made possible by a high ratio of adults to children.
- the support of a personal Key Person.
- opportunities for children to have fun and to socialise with each other and with adults.

Details of Sessions Offered

1) Tiny Tots 0–2½ years (Village Hall Main st)

Mondays 10.00am to 11.30am
Fridays 10.00am to 11.30am

These informal drop-in sessions, organised on a pay as you go basis, are an ideal opportunity for parents/carers to introduce their children to the various activities organised by our Playgroup staff.
£3.50 for 1st child (£1.00 additional children).

2) Toddlers 2½–3 years (The Pavilion)

Wednesdays 1.00pm to 2.30pm.

This is a safe and enjoyable start to independence in Playgroup. Sessions operate with a child:staff ratio of 4:1, allowing for individual attention and the opportunity for great fun in a safe and secure environment.
£5.00 per 1½hr session, payable half-termly.

3) Mainstream Playgroup 3 – 5 years (The Pavilion)

Mondays 9.15am to 11.45am & 12.15pm to 2.45pm
Tuesdays 9.15am to 11.45am
Wednesdays 9.15am to 11.45am
Thursdays 9.15am to 11.45am & 12.15pm-2.45pm
Fridays 9.15am to 11.45am

We can offer places for up to 20 children in each of our mainstream sessions. The children follow a play-based curriculum and we also liaise closely with the Bishopthorpe Infant School to ensure a smooth transition between Playgroup and school. £8.50 per 2½hr session. There is a 30 minute lunch club on Mondays and Thursdays (so that full days are then available as well).

The City of York Council provides free education places for all 3 and 4 year olds whose parents wish to take up the places. The entitlement consists of up to 15 hours per week, over 38 weeks per year in total. Any childcare hours over and above the entitlement claimed are charged for at £3.40 per hour, which equates to £8.50 for the 2½hr session. However, parents do not have to take up the

Curriculum for Mainstream Playgroup

Bishopthorpe Pre-school Playgroup follows the National Foundation Stage curriculum. This is designed for all children aged 3 – 5, whether in attendance at a Playgroup, Nursery or Reception class within a school. The curriculum aims to promote learning in the following six key areas.

- Personal, social and emotional development.
- Communications, language and literacy
- Problem solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development

